

## CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: M:31-21 (PACS 3.18) Construction Date: 1928

Name: Bernard Atwood Property

Location: 12129 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton vicinity, Montgomery County

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Yes:restricted

### Description:

The Bernard Atwood Property is a 1-story, 3-bay vernacular residence on the east side of Georgia Avenue in the Wheaton vicinity, Montgomery County. Constructed in 1928, the building is a hipped roof cottage with a cut-away porch at the northwest corner and has two hipped roof additions. The structure has an asphalt shingle roof with exposed rafter ends. A hipped roof dormer is located on the front elevation. It is of wood-frame construction with a rock-faced concrete block foundation on the front and south elevations and a smooth-face concrete block foundation on the north and rear elevations. The building has wood shingle siding and wood double-hung windows. A central brick chimney is located on the rear roof slope, while an exterior brick chimney is located on the south elevation. Additions are located on the rear and south elevations. The additions have smooth-face concrete block pier supports, the space between which has been filled with concrete block. The cut-away porch at the northwest corner has two tapered wood posts on brick piers. The porch floor is wooden with a wood railing.

### Significance:

Bernard Atwood purchased 1 hectare (2.4 acres) of land in 1923 from Leo and Ada Graeves. Leo and Ada Graeves acquired a 3.3 hectare (8.12 acre) parcel of land in 1919 and constructed a wood-frame Four-square circa 1920 (M:31-22). Immediately to the south of that house, they subdivided a 1 hectare (2.4 acre) lot which was sold to Bernard Atwood. According to the Montgomery County Tax Records, Bernard Atwood constructed a house on the property in 1928. The property, including the house and a reduced acreage of .24 hectares (.6 acres) was sold to William and Nellie Day in 1953. In 1955, the property was sold to Henry and Beatrice Travis. Andrew and Josephine Sparacino bought the property in 1958. Andrew Sparacino died in June 1969. Upon the death of Josephine Sparacino in 1983, the property was transferred to Andrew and Virginia Sparacino, the current owners, in 1984. The property is .24 hectares (.6 acres) in size.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form**  
**Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term Congestion Relief**

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no**1. Name:** (indicate preferred name)

historic Bernard Atwood Property (preferred)

and/or common Sparacino Property

**2. Location:**

street &amp; number 12129 Georgia Avenue

☒ not for publication

city, town Wheaton

☒ vicinity of

congressional district

state

Maryland

county

Montgomery

**3. Classification:****Category**☐ district☒ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object**Ownership**☐ public☒ private☐ both**Public Acquisition**☐ in process☐ being considered☒ not applicable**Status**☒ occupied☐ unoccupied☐ work in progress**Accessible**☒ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no**Present Use**☐ agriculture☐ commercial☐ education☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ transportation☐ museum☐ park☒ private☐ residence☐ religious☐ scientific☐ other:**4. Owner of Property:** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Andrew D. and V. C. Sparacino

street &amp; number 1107 McNeil Lane

telephone no.:

city,town Silver Spring

state and zip code MD 20904

**5. Location of Legal Description**

Land Records Office of Montgomery County

liber 6570

street &amp; number Montgomery County Judicial Center

folio 230

city,town Rockville

state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title

date

☐ federal☐ state☐ county☐ local

depository for survey records

city,town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. M:31-21 (PACS 3.18)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Resource Count: 2

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Bernard Atwood Property is a 1-story, 3-bay vernacular residence on the east side of Georgia Avenue in the Wheaton vicinity, Montgomery County. Constructed in 1928, the building is a hipped roof cottage with a cut-away porch at the northwest corner and has two hipped roof additions.

The structure has an asphalt shingle roof with exposed rafter ends. A hipped roof dormer is located on the front elevation. It is of wood-frame construction with a rock-faced concrete block foundation on the front and south elevations and a smooth-face concrete block foundation on the north and rear elevations. The building has wood shingle siding and wood double-hung windows. A central brick chimney is located on the rear roof slope, while an exterior brick chimney is located on the south elevation. Additions are located on the rear and south elevations. The additions have smooth-face concrete block pier supports, the space between which has been filled with concrete block. The cut-away porch at the northwest corner has two tapered wood posts on brick piers. The porch floor is wooden with a wood railing.

The west, or front facade has a wood 6/6 double-hung window and 9-light wood panel door within the front porch. The first story also has a pair of 6/1 double-hung windows. The north elevation has an enclosed window on the basement level and two 6/1 double-hung windows on the first story. The rear elevation has a full-width hipped roof addition with a 9-light wood panel door, two 6/1 double-hung windows and a 6-light casement window. A wood exterior staircase accesses the rear door. The south elevation has two 6/1 double-hung windows. The addition to the south elevation has a pair of 6/1 double-hung windows on the south elevation and single 6/1 double-hung windows on the east and west elevations.

There is one outbuilding associated with this property. A garage, located southeast of the house, has a hipped roof with exposed rafter ends. Constructed in 1928, the garage is of wood-frame construction with a concrete foundation, wood clapboard siding and an asphalt shingle roof. The west elevation has double doors, while the north elevation has a wood panel door and a window boarded over with plywood.

The property is located on the east side of Georgia Avenue, with a residential property to the north and a circa 1960 apartment complex to the south and east.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. M:31-21 (PACS 3.18)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communication	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates 1928

Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or  
Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Bernard Atwood purchased 1 hectare (2.4 acres) of land in 1923 from Leo and Ada Graeves. Leo and Ada Graeves acquired a 3.3 hectare (8.12 acre) parcel of land in 1919 and constructed a wood-frame Four-square circa 1920 (M:31-22). Immediately to the south of that house, they subdivided a 1 hectare (2.4 acre) lot which was sold to Bernard Atwood. According to the Montgomery County Tax Records, Bernard Atwood constructed a house on the property in 1928. The property, including the house and a reduced acreage of .24 hectares (.6 acres) was sold to William and Nellie Day in 1953. In 1955, the property was sold to Henry and Beatrice Travis. Andrew and Josephine Sparacino bought the property in 1958. Andrew Sparacino died in June 1969. Upon the death of Josephine Sparacino in 1983, the property was transferred to Andrew and Virginia Sparacino, the current owners, in 1984. The property is .24 hectares (.6 acres) in size.

The Bernard Atwood Property is located in the Wheaton vicinity. The area known as Wheaton developed from a small mid-nineteenth century cross-roads settlement at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Old Bladensburg Road (vicinity of Georgia Avenue and University Boulevard). At that time, a tavern had been in operation at that intersection since the 1700s. In the mid-nineteenth century the tavern was operated by Richard Mitchell, and the area was called Mitchell's Crossroads. After the Civil War, George Plyer, postmaster of Mitchell's Crossroads, officially changed the named of his post office to Wheaton, in honor of Civil War hero General Frank Wheaton. General Wheaton was a Rhode Island soldier who successfully defended the City of Washington from southern forces by defeating General Jubal Early at Fort Stevens. Commercial growth and residential development was sporadic until the twentieth century. The first modern commercial development began in the 1920s, with Dr. Atchison's stores and gas station at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Old Bladensburg Road. Another gas station, an Amoco station, was built at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Viers Mill Road in 1940. The northern section of Wheaton was known as High Steps, reported after a local store which was located on the second floor of a building.

A residential boom in Wheaton began in 1948 with the construction of Viers Mill Village (M:31-23), a low-cost housing project. Between 1949 and 1950, Glenmont Village was constructed at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Randolph Road. The area known as High Steps is now known as Glenmont. With housing construction experiencing tremendous growth, commercial establishments and public services followed to support the new residents. In 1954, The Wheaton Junior-Senior High School opened and the \$20 million Wheaton Plaza was constructed in 1955. Also in 1955 a

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Bernard Atwood Property

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ADDRESS: 12129 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton vicinity, Montgomery County

### 8. Significance (Continued)

new water reservoir tank was under construction by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and free parking lots were proposed for strategic locations throughout Wheaton. Increased population brought traffic congestion to the busy intersections of Wheaton. Beginning in the 1950s, numerous widening and repaving campaigns altered and enlarged the road network in the Wheaton region. Today, there are few reminders of Wheaton's nineteenth century crossroads history (Sentinel, 29 September 1955).

The Bernard Atwood Property is a 1-story vernacular residence with Craftsman-style and Bungalow influences. Between 1870 and 1940 the vernacular cottage style was typically built for Americans of modest means. They are characterized by simple ornamentation and mass-produced components, such as door frames, moldings, sash and window units, and porch decoration. The development of post-Civil War machinery capable of producing large amounts of standardized housing elements, such as those found in cottages, contributed greatly to the development of the modern American housing industry. Designs for vernacular cottages were obtained from popular magazines, such as House Beautiful, or carpenter's and builder's journals, such as American Builder. A variety of front-gable, side-gable, cross-gable and hipped roof frame cottages were developed in the early to mid-twentieth century. Front-gable and hipped roof cottages are primarily 1 to 1½-stories tall, 3-bays wide and several rooms deep. Side-gable and cross-gable structures are usually 2 to 2½-stories tall, are typically 2 to 3-bays in width and vary from one to three rooms deep. They usually include a porch covered with a shed roof. Porches are supported by posts often containing machine-produced Victorian ornamentation. Some cottages feature ornamentation drawn from Craftsman style or Colonial Revival architecture (Gottfried and Jennings 1988, viii-xv).

CONTINUATION SHEET

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Bernard Atwood Property

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ADDRESS: 12129 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton vicinity, Montgomery County

## 8. Significance (Continued)

### National Register Evaluation:

Constructed in 1928, the Bernard Atwood Property is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state, or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is a ubiquitous building type which lacks architectural significance. The building is a simple vernacular "cottage" which exhibits influences from the Craftsman and Bungalow styles. The building is a simplified interpretation of early twentieth century architectural movements and lacks the form and character-defining elements of either style. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility Not Recommended XX

Comments

Reviewer, OPS: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer, NR Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*gms*

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. M:31-21(PACS 3.18)

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See Attached

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name Kensington, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Tim Tamburrino

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date May 1998

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Bernard Atwood Property

SURVEY NO.: M:31-21 (PACS 3.18)

ADDRESS: 12129 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton vicinity, Montgomery County

## 9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Boyd, T.H.S. 1968. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company.
- Brugger, Robert A. 1988. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Coleman, Margaret Marshall. 1984. Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Rev. 1990. Norfolk and Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers.
- Farquhar, Roger Brooke. 1962. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland. Washington: Judd and Detweiler, Inc.
- Gottfried, Herbert and Jennings, Jan. 1988. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press.
- Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. 1976. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society.
- Hopkins, G.M. [1879] 1975. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including the County of Montgomery, Maryland. Reprint. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society.
- Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
- Martenet, Simon J. [1865] 1975. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Reprint. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society.
- Tindall, George Brown. 1984. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

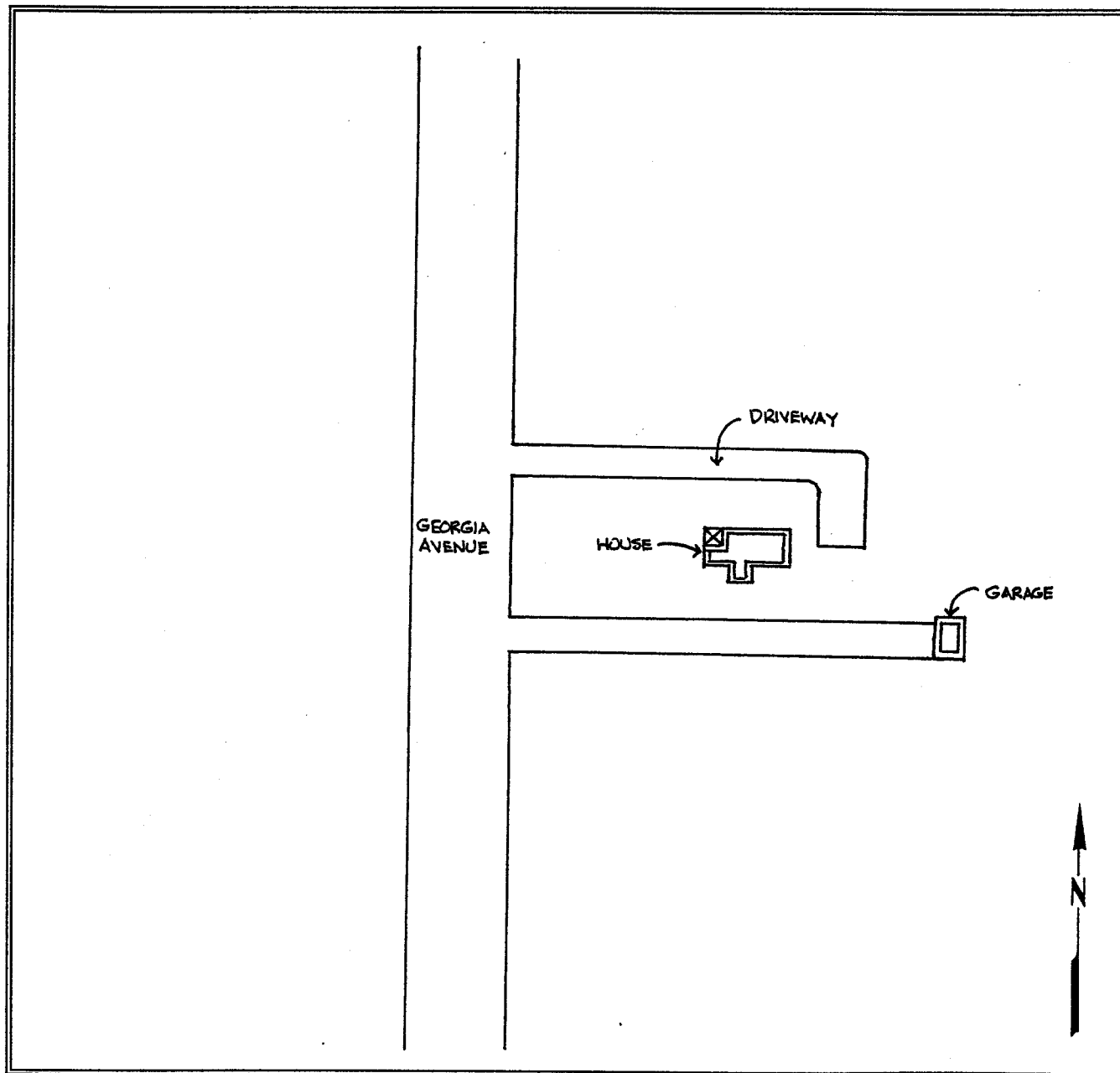
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## 10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Bernard Atwood Property

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Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

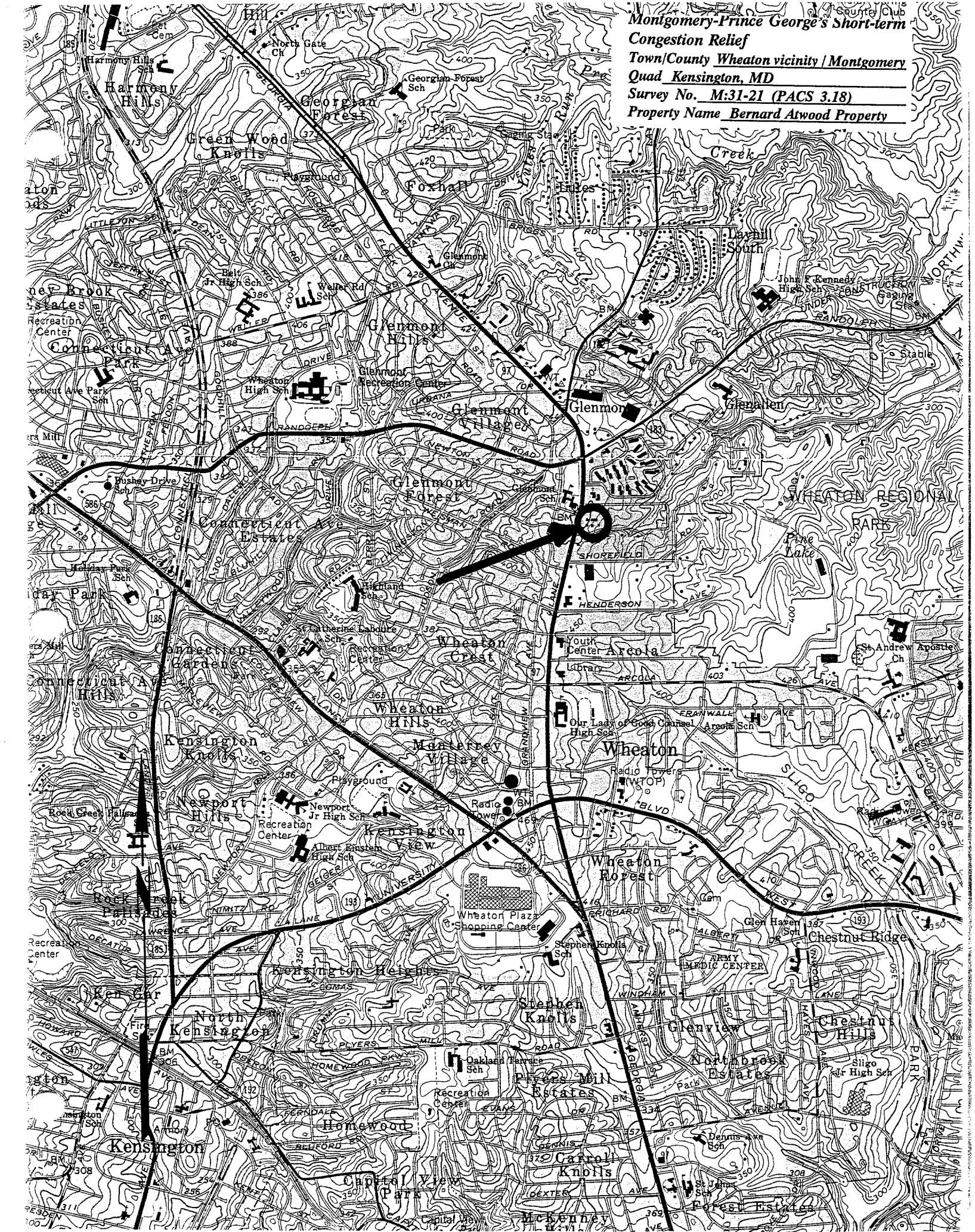
Private Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer  
P.A.C. Spero & Company  
May 1998

Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term  
Congestion Relief  
Town/County Wheaton vicinity / Montgomery  
Quad Kensington, MD  
Survey No. M:31-21 (PACS 3.18)  
Property Name Bernard Atwood Property





M-31-21

BERNARD ATWOOD PROPERTY  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

TIM TAMBUKING

4-98

3070271 411442

MARYLAND SHPO

FRONT ELEVATION

1/10



M-31-21

BERNARD ATWOOD PROPERTY  
MONTGOMERY CO, MD

TIM TAMBUKING

4-98 3070221 N 314 113

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTHWEST CORNER

2/10





M-31-21

BERNARD ATWOOD PROPERTY

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98 SUBJECT UNKNOWN

MARYLAND SUFO

NORTH ELEVATION

3/10



M-31-21

BERNARD ATWOOD PROPERTY  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98

3371271 44912

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTHEAST CORNER

4/10



M-31-21

BERNARD ATWOOD PROPERTY  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98'

EST 00271 N N N N N 2

MARYLAND EHPD

REAR ELEVATION

5 / 10



M-31-21

BERNARD ATWOOD PROPERTY  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

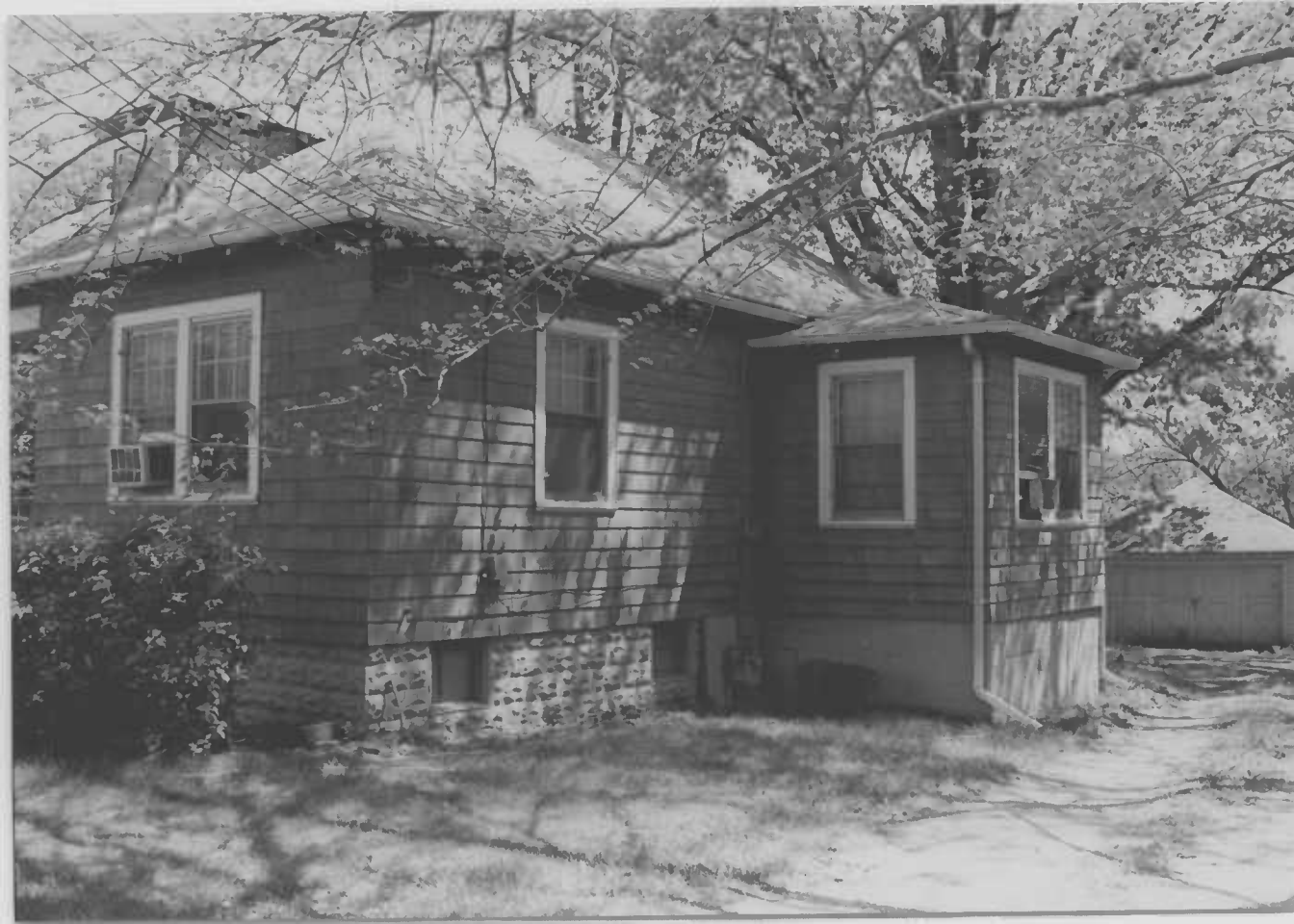
4-98

5970271 W H N-11

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTHEAST CORNER

6/10





M-31-21

BERNARD ATWOOD PROPERTY

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

TIM TAMBURINO

4-98

3951271 4 4 4 4 4

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

7/10



M-31-21

BERNARD ATWOOD PROPERTY

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98

3070071 000000

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTHWEST CORNER

8/10



M-31-21

BERNARD ATWOOD PROPERTY  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98

19700071 MICH N2

MARYLAND SHIPCO

GARAGE, VIEW FROM EAST

9/10



M-31-21

BERNARD ATWOOD PROPERTY  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98

3070071 K N H 12

MARYLAND SLIP

GARAGE, VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST

10/10